

INFORMATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Siam/Indochina

DATE DISTR. 7 September 1948

SUBJECT Details Concerning Pridi, Luang Pibul ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NO. OF PAGES 2  
the Viet Minh

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO 25X1X

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letter of 16 October 1971 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2008

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. Before the fall of the Thamrong government, Pridi Banomyong gave orders to the Minister of Finance to pay 200,000 baht out of the 1948 budget to Nai Tieng Sirikhan, to be used for the assistance of the Viet Minh. After the 9 November Coup d'Etat, payment was stopped by Nai Khuang Abhaiwong.
2. Pridi's principal liaison men with the Viet Minh was Nai Thong-In Phuriphat who sold Free Thai weapons to the Khmer-Issarak and to the Viet Minh. Nai Tieng sold Free Thai weapons to the Free Laos and to the Viet Minh. Both of these men obtained large sums in personal profits from the transactions.
3. Luang Pibul Songgram recently claimed that his government has succeeded in disarming all Viet Minh troops on Siamese soil, and in putting a stop to Viet Minh military training in Siam.  
(Comment by Indochinese businessman. It seems probably that the Siamese government has always underestimated the number of Viet Minh troops in Siam. Having disarmed a certain number of them, the government might regard the job as complete.)
4. Luang Pibul Songgram also claims that he has closed down the Viet Minh radio transmitters in Siam.  
(Comment by Indochinese businessman. It seems probably that secret Viet Minh radio transmitters are still in operation in Siam.)
5. Luang Pibul is making a fairly sincere effort to suppress the Viet Minh in Siam. He is, however, handicapped by his fear of Pridi's men. This fear is evidenced by the fact that three of his cabinet members, Nai Liang Chayakan, Nai Fuen Suphanasan and Nai Pathom Pothikaeo, are Pridi men, and that he was at one time even considering taking Nai Thong-In Phuriphat into his cabinet.  
Comment. Nai Liang Chayakan has not been a Pridi man for some time. He was prominent in the Democratic Party in early 1947. A few months prior to November 1947, Pridi, realizing that his political position was disintegrating, had Nai Tawi Tavetikul make a "deal" with Liang to form the Prachachon Party as a second "opposition party" to Thamrong's backing, in an effort to win over the dissident elements in the Democratic Party and thus weaken and split the party. The 9 November Coup intervened before the outcome of this plan was apparent.

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Document No. 4  
NO CHANGE in Class.  
DECLASSIFIED  
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
DDA Memo: 4 Apr 77  
DDA E.O. 11652

CENTRAL

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In the spring of 1946, Pridi stated that Nai Liang was an example of the worst type of Siamese active in political life and he decried the fact that he had to work with such men. Nai Liang was a Pridi adherent at that time but later "switched" as he had done with regularity in the past.

Nai Fuen and Nai Pathom are not staunch Pridi men.

The men Pibul fears, who have considerable power among the Viet Minh in east and northeast Siam, are such men as Nai Tieng Sirikhan, Nai Thong-In Phuriphat, Chamlong Daoruang, etc.)

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